



Building Regional Capacity in Libya, Tunisia, and Morocco for Safe and Secure Management of Samples Containing Weaponizable Pathogens

Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Programs
- ◆ Unit: Disease Control and Prevention

OBJECTIVES

This project aims to provide comprehensive and contextually appropriate systems for securing samples containing potentially weaponizable pathogens in high-risk public health and veterinary laboratory facilities in Libya, Tunisia, and Morocco.

BENEFICIARIES

The main beneficiaries of this project are 10 key laboratory facilities and technicians from the Libyan National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and National Centre for Animal Health (NCAH), the Tunisian General Directorate of Public Health and Veterinary Services, and the Moroccan Institute National d'Hygiene.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD will partner with Georgetown University's Center for Global Health Science and Security (CGHSS) to improve accountability and security of pathogens containing potentially weaponizable pathogens by developing and implementing scalable, sustainable systems for sample inventory and security for high-risk laboratories in Libya, Tunisia, and Morocco. A network of biosecurity expertise across these three countries will be established for information sharing, capacity building, and long-term sustainment of the new secure systems. This will ensure that dangerous pathogens and toxins in North Africa are safely and securely held in a minimal number of facilities, limiting access to nefarious actors in a highly volatile and high-risk region of the world.

REGIONS OF WORK

This project will be implemented across key laboratory facilities in Libya, Tunisia, and Morocco.

PROJECT PHASES

The project will be implemented as follows:

Phase I – Preparation: Communicate with targeted countries and conduct a stakeholders' meeting with the three countries representatives, develop training material, develop a new system for sample inventory, security and consolidation,

Phase II – Implementation: Capacity building workshop for 10 Key health facilities across the 3 countries, Implement new systems for sample inventory, security, and consolidation.

Phase III – Documentation: training and meeting reports, review challenges and opportunities, Webinar reports.



Project Start and End Date	01/01/2021 – 12/31/2021
Partner Organizations	The Georgetown University for Global health Science and Security (CGHSS)
Funded by	U.S. Department of State (DOS) Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction's (ISN/CTR) Global Threat Reduction Programs, including the Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP) Biosecurity Engagement Program
Collaborators	the Libyan National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and National Centre for Animal Health (NCAH), the Tunisian General Directorate of Public Health and Veterinary Services, and the Moroccan Institute National d'Hygiene.

Currently . . .

The Eastern Mediterranean Region EMR continues to be challenged by political instability, growing populations, non-state actors, national and global safety and security risks to public health posed by terrorist group or misapplied dual use of life science. The need for tracking and consolidation of dangerous pathogens, minimizing the risk of misuse, while building a network of experts to further sustain the systems and advance efforts to secure pathogens regionally is crucial for the safety and security of risks that are imposed on the public health in the EMR region.

What is next...

This project will provide access to detailed, expertly derived data to implement a system for sample inventory, security, and consolidation across the target countries. This will ensure solutions are well-tailored to the needs and gaps identified in public health and veterinary facilities in the region.

By the Numbers

40

Technicians will benefit from capacity building workshops under this project

10

Key health facilities across the 3 countries

5

webinars will be conducted for all 10 facilities to provide additional training and remote mentorship.

GHD|EMPHNET Information: Global Health Development (GHD) and Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) works at achieving its mission by responding to public health needs with deliberate efforts that allow for health promotion and disease prevention.

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